

FLUSHING AND FLASHING.

SIR,—I see that you have used the word "flushing" (*BUILDER*, vol. 7, p. 32, col. 2) with reference to the cleansing of sewers by water. Will you permit me to make a friendly protest against the substitution of "flushing" for "flushing?" "Flush" appears to be derived from the German *Fluss*, a flood,—and to be generally used with reference to fullness or bulk, as well as rapidity or violence. The idea involved appears to be that of a flood, or rushing body of water. "Flash" appears to be derived from *φλας*, or the Anglo-Saxon *Fliscerian*, and to be generally used with reference to brilliancy and extension. The idea involved appears to be that of a flame or sparkling appearance. I would submit that the rush of a bulk of water through a sewer may properly be termed a "flush," and the splashing of a sheet of water over a street might as properly be termed a "flash." If this distinction should be adopted, the advocates for each of the words would have, it may be hoped, plenty of opportunities for using both without confusion; for if it be good that our sewers should be cleaned, it will not be denied that it would certainly be beneficial to the public, to have a little better scavenging above them than prevails at present; and the water which had "flushed" the streets from hose or water-cart, might be dammed up, under ground, until it had head enough to "flush" the sewers. N. R.

Miscellaneous.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.—The 4,000*l.* some time since subscribed for the restoration of much that was dilapidated and out of order, have not only been exhausted, but the Dean, the Hon. H. Pakenham, who began the work at his own expense, has become responsible himself for one-half of an equal sum, namely, 2,000*l.*, and has paid the interest on it till now that he has subscribed a second time 1,000*l.* to aid in making up the deficiency and further advancing the good work, which is by no means complete, though twelve arches which had been blocked up have been disencumbered, and other works accomplished. The lady chapel still lies uncovered, and the choir itself is in a most unfinished state. Subscriptions, therefore, are again solicited.

BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.—Fifty-three sets of plans have been sent in. One would suppose, says the *Birmingham Journal*, that architects had been doing nothing else for the last month or two but making workhouses on paper, and erecting little models for the accommodation of the midland counties. The same paper doubts, with great reason, that the best design will be chosen, and thinks a proposition which was made, to "toss up for it," not so absurd as it seems.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD AGAIN.—Sir: Perhaps there is greater danger in opening the ground here for interment than in any other churchyard in or near the metropolis. The soil is a loose sand, like the sand of an hour glass, and such is its tendency to run back that when opening a grave it is necessary to support the sides from top to bottom: it does not absorb the defunct remains, but they lie a dreadful compound, engendering malaria of direful effect. After rains, in hot weather, the evaporation is charged with effluvia as unbearable as a death chamber; add to which, the church is entirely lined with woollen cloth, and when the doors and windows are open, of necessity gets charged with this deleterious vapour. Although there may be some doubt of its affecting the stones of the abbey, there can be none that the numerous inhabitants of the abbey precincts must suffer incessantly from the bad atmosphere it creates. I know a lady injured in her health, which her physician attributed to her passing through the place, and gentlemen, whose avocations call them that way, avoid passing through. No time should be lost in covering over this pestiferous ground. It is a plague spot, that the most valuable lives in the empire, during the sitting of Parliament, are exposed to; besides, it is surrounded by a large population and overlooked by an hospital for the sick and maimed. —No IDLER IN LONDON.

GOVERNMENT INQUIRY AT CHELMSFORD.

—On Tuesday week Mr. Cressy's inquiry was opened. Mr. Fenton presented a laborious map, said to show the exact state of the drainage in every house, and which is to be published (for behoof of sensible tenants, we presume, and as a hint to landlords, and an example to other towns). The drainage is exceedingly defective. Nuisances of a foul character were discovered lurking in back drains and ditches, and the sewerage also was found to be generally imperfect. In one spot 100 recently built houses are drained into one totally inadequate cesspool. Mr. Cressy suggested the formation of a system of sewerage into tanks for agricultural purposes (the sewage in which, Mr. Baker observed, could be precipitated by mere ordinary white-wash and the inodorous water drained off). The inspector also pointed out that house-drains, in place of passing below the apartments to a front or street sewer, might be centered in a sewer along the backs of the houses, and much more out of the way of pollution to the inhabitants. The supply of water from the Burgess well, ten or twelve Artesian wells, and otherwise, was examined, and the means of increasing and raising the supply to the second floors of houses considered. A diminution of late years was attributed to leakage and artesian wells. The crowded state of the principal church-yard was complained of, and four others considered, and it appeared but too probable that even the water was contaminated. The inclusion of Springfield with Chelmsford, and the universal dissatisfaction with the operation of the present Act, were the other chief subjects brought under the inspector's notice.

EVILS OF SHORT LEASES.—Sir: I am delighted to find you looking up to light the evils of short leases. I have lived in France, America, Canada, and all the Channel Islands: in all these countries leases, if leases they can be called, are without limit; and in all these places the leaseholder has the right to buy off the charge or give some other property for rent, and make his own free for ever. I went once with a friend in Paris to buy a large piece of land, near the Triumphal Arch. The owner told my friend that the purchase-money was 57 francs per toise; but he only required one house to be built, that all the purchase-money should lie at 5 per cent. until the purchaser pleased to pay it off. My friend agreed, built one house, and then sold the residue at a good profit. In consequence of the good title of all building land in France, and every other country I know but England, house property, being freehold, ranks first in the list of securities for capital. It is quite the reverse in London: too true is this baneful story told. Look at the many mouldering carcasses, fit for nothing but to pull down, standing on the Crown and City lands, New Oxford-street, Holborn, &c. &c., taxed with a ground-rent of ruinous extent, and a lease so short that no honest or calculating man would have anything to do with them.—J. C.

USE OF BATH STONE.—We have received several letters in favour of Bath stone, but no end would be answered by inserting them. The mere assertions of parties (however respectable), unknown beyond their own circle, will not weigh against recorded facts, and the published opinions of impartial men known to have studied the matter. Fresh facts and experiments establishing facts we will gladly insert and give attention to. One correspondent from Bradford, Wilts, who says he has used many thousand feet of it, writes thus:—The principal failure in Bath stone is attributed to inappropriation, and the remedy for this as advised, is to lay the stone as in its native bed. This system holds good in plain faces, but in cornices or other projecting parts which are more exposed, it does not: the stone should be used joint headed, and so of copings. There are many difficulties in the selection of stone, from whatever quarries it may be brought, particularly in Bath stone, which is dug in a range of hills extending many miles, each hill producing stone of a different relative value; and these are not to be selected by any inexperienced person, as it often happens that the best in appearance is the worst for use and durability, and it is even so that in the same block we may find one portion more durable than the other.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 10th February, for erecting prisoners' cells, kitchen offices, infirmary, boundary wall, &c., at the county jail, Huntingdon: by 26th February, for the masons' and paviors' works, supply of Guernsey granite chippings, and Yorkshire paving for one year, for the parish of St. George's, Hanover-square; and by same date for the supply for one year of workmen's tools and hammers for stone breaking and repairs of same, as also for iron lamp posts and gas fittings.

NOT BORN TO BE DROWNED.—A lad named Gilder, an embryo mason, was descending a ladder near Liverpool, when a round broke, and he fell to the ground upon his feet. Rebounding, he next came down into a deep well, whence he was drawn unhurt. Such escapes should be no encouragement to carelessness. A fall of as many inches another time may be his death. We remember seeing a carpenter some years ago fall from the top of a high building to the bottom, passing two floors of naked joists in his way (going through his work neatly, if we may so speak) and getting up unhurt; while on the same day an acquaintance coming down stairs, and fancying he was at the bottom of the flight when there was in reality yet one step to descend, broke his leg in the fall that ensued.

HYDROSTATIC PRESSURE REGULATOR.—A simple apparatus has lately been invented and registered by Mr. Bryce, plumber, Glasgow, for the reduction and regulation of the hydrostatic pressure in supply-pipes connected with street water-mains. It is said, by its means, whatever the initial head pressure may be, the supply may be taken off for domestic purposes at any desired pressure less than such head pressure, with the view of avoiding the inconveniences resulting from an inordinate height of column, extreme rush of the water, the wear and leakage of cocks, &c.

CHURCHWARDENISM.—A correspondent says,—"About six or seven weeks ago, I was surprised at finding that the pinnacles which crowned the buttresses of St. Peter's Church, Dorchester (the oldest one in this borough), were removed, for what purpose I could not then discover. However, I have since found out that it was in consequence of the churchwardens imagining that they might fall on some unlucky passer-by! although they had remained so many years immovable, and were at a distance of at least ten feet from the pavement, which was separated from the church by an iron railing. I hear, also, that there is no intention of their ever being replaced." Not knowing their condition, it is impossible for us to say whether or not the act is blameable. We trust, however, that the removal will lead to restoration.—"The churchwardens of Moulton" ("THE BUILDER should be upon their bones," remarks the *Gateshead Observer*), are said to have "removed the mullions and stone tracery from almost all the windows" of the beautiful parish church "to allow the passage of more light into the interior." It is comparatively seldom, we are happy to say, that we have to record such acts now. Surely there are some persons in Moulton who will vindicate architectural propriety. Had it been in Moulton instead of Moulton they could not have done any thing more barbarous.

PRESERVATION OF BOOKS.—A correspondent wishes to be informed the most desirable way of preserving books from the effects of mildew and damp, whether cases with glass doors, or frames without, and which is the most desirable wood for their construction.

SALE OF CAST-IRON.—Messrs. Hutchison and Dixon, auctioneers, Glasgow, sold at Troon, by auction, about 1,203 tons cast-iron. Mr. Dixon explained that the metal consisted of tram rails, and chairs, which had been used on the Kilmarnock and Troon Railway. The whole was divided into eight parcels, and sold at from 38*s.* to 41*s.* per ton. The malleable iron scraps brought 63*s.* 6d. The attendance of founders and dealers (the former of whom were the buyers) from all parts of the country was numerous. The sale was a quick and most spirited affair,—the biddings at the outset being near the prices realised. In addition to the price, there falls to be paid 3*s.* 9d. per ton of carriage to Glasgow, which brings the old iron nearly to the figure at which certain brands of pig are selling here.—*North British Daily Mail*.